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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

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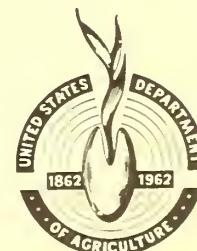
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
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NEW PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO U.S. FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE

Single copies free to persons in the United States from the Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., Room 5555. Phone: DUDley 8-2445.

World Fats and Oils Exports Again High; Production Sets Record. Foreign Agriculture Circular FFO 17-61. 54 pp.

World Hog Slaughter To Increase in 1962. Foreign Agriculture Circular FLM 14-61. 4 pp.

New Grades and Standards Set for Brazil Nuts. Foreign Agriculture Circular FN 6-61. 5 pp.

World Cotton Crop at Record High for Fourth Successive Year. Foreign Agriculture Circular FC 14-61. 9 pp.

**GREEK TOBACCO EXPORTS
UP SHARPLY IN 1960-61**

Greek exports of unmanufactured tobacco totaled 141.2 million pounds in the 12 months ended June 30, 1961, compared with 124.3 million in the previous fiscal year. This represents a gain of 14 percent.

U.S. purchases, at 29.7 million pounds in 1960-61, were 3 percent larger than a year earlier and West Germany's takings were 35.0 million pounds in 1960-61, compared with 33.2 million in 1959-60.

Total Greek exports to countries outside the Soviet bloc were 108.6 million pounds in 1960-61--an increase of 9 percent. There were marked gains, compared with the previous year, in exports to Belgium, Finland, Egypt, Portugal, and Spain.

Exports to the Soviet bloc countries totaled 32.6 million pounds in the period July 1960-June 1961, compared with 24.3 million in the previous 12 months.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: Greece, exports by principal countries of destination, July-June 1959-60 and 1960-61, and average export price per pound

Destination	July 1959-	Average	July 1960-	Average
	June 1960	price	June 1961	price
	1,000 pounds	per pound	1,000 pounds	per pound
Germany, West.....	33,175	55.3	34,996	49.4
United States.....	28,971	73.5	29,720	68.5
Soviet Union.....	12,059	53.1	15,847	50.3
France.....	10,741	48.1	8,724	47.6
Czechoslovakia.....	5,992	82.1	6,962	65.3
Belgium.....	3,801	26.3	4,764	23.6
Hungary.....	2,337	44.0	4,365	22.2
Italy.....	4,711	53.1	4,266	54.4
Finland.....	2,412	53.5	3,990	49.4
Austria.....	3,691	30.8	3,891	44.5
Switzerland.....	3,045	72.1	3,296	64.0
Poland.....	3,774	73.0	2,917	61.7
Germany, East.....	104	72.6	2,504	76.2
Egypt.....	470	64.9	2,454	57.2
Others.....	9,030	---	12,513	---
Total.....	124,313	58.5	141,209	53.1

CANADIANS SMOKING MORE

Canadian smokers bought more tobacco products in the first 9 months of 1961 than in any comparable previous period.

Cigarette sales totaled 27,336 million pieces--up 8 percent from January-September 1960. Cigar consumption rose to 240.5 million pieces from 234.3 million a year earlier. Sales of cut tobacco (smoking and chewing) and plug were larger, but snuff was down a little from the 1960 period.

MEXICO EXPECTS MUCH SMALLER
TOBACCO CROP IN 1962

Mexico expects its 1962 tobacco harvest to be much smaller than the 112-million-pound crop of 1961.

The 1961 harvest was unusually large because of excellent growing conditions, and stocks are quite heavy.

GERMAN CIGARETTE SALES
UP 9.4 PERCENT

Sales of tax-paid cigarettes in West Germany (including West Berlin) totaled 57.9 billion pieces during the first 9 months of 1961--or 9.4 percent larger than in the comparable period last year.

Cigarette sales during calendar year 1960 totaled 71.0 billion pieces, and if the percentage increase for the last quarter of 1961 equals that for the first 9 months, total cigarette sales for 1961 could be close to 77.0 billion pieces.

NEW PHILIPPINE SUGAR MILL
TO SUPPLY LOCAL NEEDS

The Philippine Sugar Quota Board recently announced the creation of a new sugar district in Neuva Viscaya to meet the domestic sugar requirements of Northern Luzon.

A new mill, already established in the area, will process cane grown mostly on new plantations and therefore will not draw to any great extent on supplies normally ground by other centrals. It will produce about 200 tons of sugar per day during the grinding season.

SOLOMONS GROWING MORE COCOA

Plantings of cocoa trees during the first quarter of 1961 brought cocoa trees in the Solomon Islands to about 1 million. The Agricultural Department is maintaining 11 plots, covering an area of 46 acres, on Malaita and the Western Isles; 50 acres have been planted on Dala Station during the past year.

Cocoa manufacturers have been quite satisfied with the standard of samples received from the Islands. Australian manufacturers report that the degree of fermentation is adequate and the flavor satisfactory.

YUGOSLAV PRUNE ESTIMATE REDUCED

The 1961 Yugoslav dried prune pack is now estimated at 28,000 short tons, a reduction of 10,000 tons from the previous estimate. Even at 28,000 tons, the Yugoslav pack is well above average and many times larger than the short 1960 pack of 3,100 tons.

Production of fresh prunes and plums measured up to the earlier estimate of 770,000 tons; however, use for drying turned out smaller than expected. The introduction this year of more rigorous export standards by the Secretariat for Commercial Trade reportedly discouraged many producers from using their traditional farm driers. Under the new standards, prunes with excessive moisture or smokey flavor are not acceptable for export. Drying of prunes in the primitive on-farm driers soon will probably be discontinued altogether.

From 16,000 to 20,000 tons of this year's production were dried in modern dehydrators. Therefore, only 8,000 to 10,000 tons were dried on the farm, in contrast with a farm-drying capacity of possibly 24,000 to 28,000 tons.

About 350 to 380 modern drying units have reportedly been put into operation in Serbia and Bosnia in the 1959-61 period. According to the announced plan, there will be modern driers with a capacity of 33,000 short tons by 1962.

THAILAND MAKES BIG RICE SALE TO INDONESIA

Thailand has signed a contract to export 300,000 metric tons of rice to Indonesia, according to a Thai news report. Shipments were to start with the marketing of new-crop rice beginning in November.

Thai exporters were notified on November 3 that export licenses for any substantial quantities of 25-percent broken and lower grades would not be issued until further notice. The intent was to reserve available supplies of this type for shipment to Indonesia.

Indonesia has been Thailand's biggest customer for rice in 1961. Thailand's total exports from January through October 1961 were 1,346,000 tons compared with 1,012,000 in the same months of 1960.

PRICES CONTINUE TO SPIRAL IN BRAZIL

A survey of retail prices in Rio de Janeiro shows that the price of black beans rose 14 percent from October 12 to October 27; prices of potatoes, onions, corn flour, and manioc root were up a third; and fresh pork, butter, and rice rose 15 to 19 percent.

The price of certain items, such as bread, is controlled, but supplies are limited at the controlled prices. For example, "common" bread prices are controlled but only limited amounts are made available. The less fortunate consumer then is offered only the higher priced bread.

ITALY HAS GOOD RICE CROP;
EXPORTS UP IN YEAR JUST ENDED

Italy's 1961 rough rice harvest (late August to early November) is officially estimated at 690,000 metric tons (1,521.2 million pounds), compared with 618,900 (1,346.4 million) in 1960. An unofficial estimate of acreage is 346,000 acres, an increase of 28,000 over last year.

Harvesting started earlier this year than usual. This was due to the long, hot summer which quickened ripening, especially of late varieties.

Rice exports from September 16, 1960, to September 30, 1961, were 231,500 tons in terms of milled. This was 86 percent above those in 1959-60. ^{1/} Beginning in 1961-62, the rice marketing year will be from October 1 through September 30 instead of September 16 to September 15, the former rice year.

Of the 231,500 tons exported in 1960-61, approximately 65 percent went to countries in Europe. Nearly 7 percent of the total exports went to the other countries of the European Common Market, compared with 19 percent in 1959-60. Exports to those countries in 1960-61 were about 7,000 tons below the 23,100 tons in the year before.

The largest quantity--60,000 tons--was shipped to Indonesia, and 26,453 went to Austria. A total of 13,261 tons was exported to Libya, Liberia, and other countries of Africa. Approximately 5,700 tons went to Canada.

Due to the relatively heavy exports in 1960-61, the rough rice carryover on October 1 this year was only 53,000 tons, compared with 245,000 at the start of 1960-61. It is expected that trade in 1961-62 will be brisk, and that the carryover at the end of the year will again be at around the 50,000-ton level.

^{1/} The years are not exactly comparable, as the 1960-61 period includes 15 extra days.

RICE: Italian exports, by country, and by classification,
September 16, 1960 to September 30, 1961 1/

Country	:Rough and:					:Percent of total
	: semi-	: Semi-	: Milled	: Broken	: Total	
	: rough	: milled	:	:	:	
	:	:	:	:	:	
Europe:	: Metric	: Metric	: Metric	: Metric	: Metric	:
	: tons	: tons	: tons	: tons	: tons	:Percent
Belgium-Luxembourg:	20:	0:	849:	50:	919:	0.4
France:	2/1,429:	0:	263:	125:	1,817:	.8
Netherlands:	2/21:	0:	1,646:	0:	1,667:	.7
West Germany:	7,495:	0:	3,949:	125:	11,569:	5.0
Total European : :	8,965:	0:	6,707:	300:	15,972:	6.9
Bulgaria:	0:	0:	7,500:	0:	7,500:	3.2
Czechoslovakia:	2,300:	0:	4,000:	0:	6,300:	2.7
East Germany:	0:	0:	3,300:	0:	3,300:	1.4
Hungary:	0:	0:	2,000:	0:	2,000:	.9
Poland:	0:	0:	14,086:	0:	14,086:	6.1
Yugoslavia:	0:	0:	1,126:	0:	1,127:	.5
Total Eastern Europe: 2,300:	0:	32,012:	0:	34,312:	14.8	
Austria:	17:	0:	22,488:	3,948:	26,453:	11.4
Cyprus:	0:	0:	3,175:	0:	3,175:	1.4
Denmark:	8:	0:	2,508:	930:	3,446:	1.5
Finland:	11,920:	0:	3:	0:	11,923:	5.2
Greece:	1,071:	0:	1,200:	0:	2,271:	1.0
Ireland:	0:	0:	1,072:	128:	1,200:	.5
Norway:	2,795:	0:	9:	0:	2,804:	1.2
Sweden:	15:	0:	2,559:	93:	2,667:	1.1
Switzerland:	21,136:	0:	794:	421:	22,351:	9.6
United Kingdom:	10,106:	0:	12,263:	278:	22,647:	9.8
Other countries:	0:	0:	144:	0:	144:	.1
Total other Europe : 47,068:	0:	46,215:	5,798:	99,081:	42.8	
Total Europe:	58,333:	0:	84,934:	6,098:	149,365:	64.5
Middle East:	0:	0:	1,860:	45:	1,905:	.8
Indonesia:	0:	60,000:	0:	0:	60,000:	25.9
Africa: :	:	:	:	:	:	
Liberia:	1,854:	513:	2,948:	0:	5,315:	2.3
Libya:	0:	0:	5,414:	105:	5,519:	2.4
Other countries:	117:	512:	1,798:	0:	2,427:	1.0
Total:	1,971:	1,025:	10,160:	105:	13,261:	5.7
Canada:	4,800:	0:	691:	200:	5,691:	2.5
Other countries:	60:	0:	1,216:	0:	1,276:	.6
Total:	65,164:	61,025:	98,861:	6,448:	231,498:	100.0

1/ Includes 15 extra days, because the beginning of the marketing year was extended to October 1. 2/ Rough rice converted to milled equivalent at 70 percent.

COSTA RICAN SLAUGHTER PLANT CHANGES HANDS

The principal meat-packing plant in Costa Rica is now idle and is being sold by its U.S. private owners to Costa Rican interests.

The plant, built in 1958, was forced to close early in August, as not enough local slaughter cattle were available for efficient and economic manufacture of boneless beef. It became impossible to import cattle profitably after June 20, when the Costa Rican Government imposed an import tax of 20 colones per head on such animals.

The number of cattle authorized for local slaughter and for export as beef or alive has been determined each year by the National Production Council. Most of the exports have been boneless beef to the United States. Mainland U.S. and Puerto Rican imports of beef from Costa Rica rose to 15.3 million pounds in 1960 but amounted to only 2.6 million pounds in January-September 1961.

The million-dollar plant will now be operated by a group of Costa Rican cattlemen. It has an annual capacity of 50,000 head of cattle, based on freezer space.

IRISH BAN EXPORTS OF WORK HORSES

The Irish Government has placed a ban on exports of working horses, 7 years or older, to countries other than Northern Ireland, other parts of the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States.

A new horse-slaughtering plant has started operations at Cahir, Tipperary County. There are 2 other plants in operation--at Castleroy, Limerick, County and at Straffan, Kildare, County.

The horse export ban was encouraged by humane societies who were disturbed by the conditions under which horses were being shipped to the Continent for slaughter. One shipload destined for France sank and the drowned horses washed onto the beaches. Farmers, who now expect to receive less money for their surplus horses, opposed the ban.

FOOD SHORT IN TANGANYIKA

Severe food shortages caused by drought have continued for nearly a year in the Central, Tanga, and Northern provinces of Tanganyika, which are sections of low rainfall and subsistence agriculture. Livestock and wild life losses have been severe.

AUSTRALIAN MEAT SHIPMENTS
TO UNITED STATES

Two ships left Australia in late October with 6,574,000 pounds of meat for the United States--6,008,000 of beef and 567,000 of lamb and mutton.

Beef arrivals are reported as follows:

Ship	Sailing date	Destination ^{1/}	Arrival date	Quantity
:	:			
:	:			<u>1,000 lb.</u>
:	:			
Brazilian Reefer.....	October 24	Seattle	November 12	134
:		San Francisco	do. 15	482
:		Los Angeles	do. 18	757
:				
Port Quebec.....	November 28	Charleston	November 28	284
:		New York	December 1	2,742
:		Philadelphia	do. 7	<u>2/1,074</u>
:		Boston	do. 12	535

^{1/} Cities listed indicate location of purchaser and usually the port of arrival and general market area, but meat may be diverted to other areas for sale. ^{2/} Includes 110,000 pounds to be transshipped to New Orleans and 108,000 pounds to be transshipped to Norfolk.

The Port Quebec will also discharge 446,000 pounds of lamb at New York, 45,000 at Philadelphia, and 69,000 at Boston. The ship also carries 7,000 pounds of mutton for discharge at Philadelphia.

ARGENTINA EXPECTS SMALLER
WOOL CLIP IN 1961-62

Argentina's shorn wool production in the year beginning October 1 is expected to drop about 7 percent because of drought in the southern provinces. Official estimates place the 1961-62 clip at 400 million pounds. It was 431 million in 1960-61.

Clean yields of the current clip are expected to be higher because of widespread rains in recent months. Another factor will be reduced sheep numbers resulting from drought losses and increased slaughter since mid-1961.

Argentina exported about 340 million pounds of raw wool in the year ended September 30--up more than 20 percent from the previous year. The United States continued to be the largest market for Argentine wool although purchases declined from the previous year.

BRAZIL SETS UP
COTTON BOARD

On November 8, Brazil inaugurated the National Cotton Board. This agency, made up of representatives from all segments of the cotton industry and government, is to coordinate all existing elements of Brazil's cotton policy and recommend programs and proposals to the Minister of Agriculture.

CANADA'S QUARTERLY BARLEY
EXPORTS UP 88 PERCENT

Exports of Canadian barley and oats for the first quarter of fiscal year 1961-62 (July-September) were 293,000 metric tons--80 percent higher than the 163,000 shipped in the comparable period of 1960-61.

Barley shipments were 290,000 tons--70 percent of which went to Mainland China. Exports of 85,000 tons went to the United States, where there is a shortage of malting barley.

Oats exports of 3,300 tons were about one-third of quarterly shipments a year ago, due largely to short supplies in Canada and decreased trade with the United Kingdom.

OATS AND BARLEY: Canadian exports by country of destination
1960 and 1961

Country of destination	Oats	Barley	Total
	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons
July-September 1960:			
United States.....	1,666	27,977	29,643
United Kingdom.....	5,064	120,747	125,811
Switzerland.....	1,671	3,466	5,137
Venezuela.....	82	---	82
Barbados.....	13	---	13
Italy.....	---	640	640
Belgium.....	1,016	---	1,016
West Germany.....	---	1,016	1,016
Total.....			
Total.....	9,512	153,846	163,358
July-September 1961:			
United States.....	3,259	85,206	88,465
United Kingdom.....	111	254	365
Venezuela.....	---	907	907
China, Mainland.....	---	203,521	203,521
Total.....			
Total.....	3,370	289,888	293,258

**INDIA ANNOUNCES COTTON
IMPORT QUOTAS**

India recently announced 2 cotton import quotas totaling about 148,000 bales of 500 pounds gross (181,000 bales of 400 pounds gross). One quota was to cover about 5,000 bales to be imported from the United States before January 1962 under U.S. Public Law 480 arrangements.

The second quota was for 143,000 bales from any country to be imported after December 1961 but before June 1962. Allocations are as follows:

- (1) 37,000 bales of cotton 1-1/16 inches and above are reserved for Cooperatives under the Indian export incentive scheme.
- (2) 41,000 bales 1-1/16 inches and above but under 1-3/16 inches and 65,000 bales 1-3/16 inches and over are to be allotted to mills on the basis of actual cotton consumption during 1960.

These are the third and fourth quota announcements of the current Indian cotton season (September-August), and bring the total to about 193,000 bales of 500 pounds gross. Additional announcements will be published in Foreign Crops and Markets as available.

**ARGENTINE CATTLE
SLAUGHTER RISES**

Argentine cattle and sheep slaughter this year is considerably heavier than a year earlier, but there is little change in hog slaughter.

Cattle marketings at Laniers, the world's largest cattle market, and direct packer purchases from ranches totaled nearly 3.5 million head during the first 8 months of 1961, 21 percent more than a year earlier (see table on following page). Although total receipts at Laniers were up 20 percent this year, receipts of calves were up 83 percent, bulls gained 53 percent, and cows rose 69 percent. Increased marketings of these classes were the direct result of the drought, which put a "damper" on the increase in cattle numbers on farms (Foreign Crops and Markets, November 13, 1961).

Sheep marketings at Argentina's large sheep market, Avellaneda, and direct packer purchases from ranches during January-July totaled 2.3 million head, compared with 1.9 million a year earlier and 1.6 million in the same period of 1959.

Hog marketings at Laniers and direct packer purchases during January-July 1961 totaled 939,000 head, compared with 947,000 a year earlier and 682,000 in 1959.

CATTLE: Marketings at Laniers, Argentina, and direct purchases from ranches, 1954-60 and January-August 1960 and 1961

Year	Laniers	Direct purchases	Total
	<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>1,000 head</u>
1954.....	1,686	2,172	3,858
1955.....	1,622	3,838	5,460
1956.....	1,837	5,009	6,846
1957.....	3,106	3,508	6,614
1958.....	4,213	2,057	6,270
1959.....	2,914	1,594	4,508
1960.....	3,136	1,162	4,298
Jan.-Aug.....			
1960.....	2,093	774	2,867
1961.....	2,507	985	3,492

GUATEMALA LIBERALIZES
COTTONSEED EXPORTS

The Government of Guatemala by an Executive Order of November 9, 1961, removed all controls on exports and fixed prices of cottonseed.

The action was prompted by the recent marked increase in cottonseed production. On the basis of estimated cotton output, cottonseed production in 1961-62 is calculated at about 80,000 short tons, reflecting a steady upward trend from the 1950-54 average of 11,000 tons.

VENEZUELA IMPORTS EGGS
FOR HOLIDAY DEMAND

The Ministries of Development and Agriculture, jointly, have authorized the Venezuelan Association of Poultry Producers to import 20,000 cases of eggs to meet increased demand during the Christmas holidays.

Authority to import the eggs was given under condition that (1) the Association of Poultry Producers would be the sole importer; (2) the Ministries of Development and Agriculture shall control and keep watch over imports and (3) funds obtained from importation and sale of eggs are to be used only for purposes designed to assist the domestic poultry industry.

Although the present authorization to import eggs appears to be limited to the Christmas holidays, it is quite probable that if more imports are needed, the Poultry Producers Association will continue to be the importing agency.

DANES CONSIDERING RAPESEED
MARKETING PLAN

The Danish Minister of Agriculture on September 20, 1961 asked Parliament to enact a marketing plan for domestic rapeseed. He presented a Bill for this purpose covering the 1961 and 1962 crops, and guaranteeing farmers an outlet for 19,000 metric tons (20,945 short tons) of rapeseed at fixed prices.

The action was prompted by Danish margarine industry opposition to continuance of a marketing plan that has been in effect for 3 years. This plan was established on a voluntary basis between the growers and the margarine industry (Foreign Crops and Markets, August 14.) Furthermore, during its negotiations with agriculture as to an economic relief program last spring, the Danish Government bound itself to introduce a rapeseed marketing plan on a legislative basis if voluntary continuance failed.

The proposed marketing plan obligates the margarine industry to absorb rapeseed or rapeseed oil originating from domestically-grown rapeseed corresponding to 10 percent of the margarine industry's oil requirements. This is estimated to be the equivalent of 19,000 tons of rapeseed. The price to be paid by the industry is fixed at 0.70 kroner per kilogram (4.6 U.S. cents per pound) of spring rape and 0.80 kroner (5.3 cents) for winter rapeseed. However, in addition the industry must pay a levy of 0.42 kroner per kilogram (2.76 cents per pound) of rapeseed received under the marketing scheme. The levy is paid into a pool, the revenue from which will be distributed to all rapeseed growers on the basis of their total commercial sales. The levy is expected to produce a total revenue of roughly 8 million kroner (\$1.16 million).

The levy is needed because the overall rapeseed crop--at least this year with production estimated at 25,000 metric tons (27,560 short tons)--will exceed the quantity which the margarine industry is obligated to receive. The imposition of a fee on the 19,000 tons of rapeseed that the industry must absorb and distribution of the revenue as outlined above have been necessary measures to ensure that all farmers benefit equally from the marketing plan.

The fee or levy that the industry must pay on top of the guaranteed prices adds to the costs of the margarine industry. The Bill allows for this by providing for a 0.10 kroner per kilogram (1.66 cent per pound) fee on the sales of table margarine.

Farmers are not obliged to sell their rapeseed to the margarine industry at the fixed prices. If farmers can obtain elsewhere prices higher than those guaranteed, they are allowed to sell their rapeseed at such prices. The industry nevertheless must pay the levy of 0.42 kroner per kilogram on the equivalent of the 19,000 tons of rapeseed they are expected to absorb. In other words, farmers will be able to increase their income from the rapeseed crop to the extent that the market offers prices higher than those guaranteed. The Bill is expected to be enacted without any changes.

JAPAN'S FATS AND OILS IMPORTS UP

Japan's imports of oilseeds in 1961 are expected to increase moderately to almost 2 million short tons of which 1.4 million tons or 47 million bushels will be soybeans. Imports in 1960 totaled 1.8 million tons, of which 1.2 million tons (41.5 million bushels) were soybeans. Vegetable oil imports are forecast at 27,900 tons and animal fats at 280,000 tons, compared with 26,391 and 212,913 tons, respectively, in 1960.

The Japanese Government continues to liberalize imports of fats and oils. Soybeans and lard were liberalized on July 1, 1961 and whale and sperm oil as well as some minor vegetable oils, were liberalized October 1. With minor exceptions, the Government intends to liberalize all fats and oils, including raw materials and oilcakes, by October 1, 1962. Rapeseed and mustard seed and their products will not be liberalized. Liberalization of soybean meal is planned for April 1, 1962, but might be delayed to October 1. Before liberalization of various commodities, the Government will revise the tariff rate to protect domestic industries.

In order to check excessive imports the Government raised the rate of import deposits on September 18. To import specified commodities, deposits of 5 percent of the invoice value are required in cash, and if the import license is cancelled, 100 percent of the deposit must be forfeited to the National Treasury. These commodities are: copra, palm kernels, soybeans, flaxseed, cottonseed, sunflower seed, castor beans, miscellaneous oil-bearing seeds, beef tallow, cottonseed oil, palm oil and tung oil. For all other fats and oils and related commodities the deposit rate is set at 35 percent in cash and the rate of forfeiture--20 percent.

Announced policy is that if, and when, the balance of payments improves, this regulation will be discontinued, and the old, low rates will again be used.

THAILAND'S CASTOR BEAN PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS UP

Thailand's 1961 castor bean production is estimated preliminarily at 50,000 short tons compared with 47,000 tons in 1960.

The steady increase in yearly production is in accordance with the Thai Government's cash crop promotion program, which has expanded the cultivated area and more effectively controlled insects and diseases. Increasing demand from abroad and favorable price levels during recent years also have stimulated production.

Exports of castor beans also have risen sharply this year, reaching 27,648 tons during January-September compared with 21,274 in the first 9 months last year and 26,429 in the entire year 1960. The major portion of Thai bean exports go to Japan.

Export quotations as of November 20 were £ 41 per metric ton (\$104 per short ton) f.o.b. Bangkok and £ 44 (\$112), c. and f. Japan, reflecting a decline of over one-third from a year earlier.

Prospects for Thai castor beans in the international market are considered good as the result of gradual improvement in both quantity and quality. Moreover, the government's standardization of castor beans, effective January 1, 1962, will provide more opportunity to enter competitive world markets.

COLOMBIANS MAKE FIRST CATTLE BREEDING STOCK EXPORTS

A Colombian firm recently exported 25 Brown Swiss bulls to Venezuela. This is the first time Colombia has ever exported breeding stock. All the animals were registered in Colombia and came from breeders in tropical parts of that country.

At the same time, Colombia is importing breeding stock for herd improvement, chiefly from the United States. Such imports are expected to set a record in 1961.

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